

RF 11/7/03 128.822PAT

PATENT

a cylindrical distributor housing having a cylinder axis arranged horizontally and transverse to the pulp layer web;

the distributor housing having an inlet defined therein for the cellulose pulp;

a rotating feed screw having an axis of rotation parallel to the cylinder axis of the distributor housing being designed to feed pulp from the inlet and along an entire length of the distributor housing in a direction of its cylinder axis; and

the distributor housing having outlets defined therein and arranged substantially along a generatrix in a jacket surface of the distributor housing, the outlets having holes arranged along the generatrix in the jacket surface of the distributor housing, the holes having a hole-diameter (d) and being arranged at a distance (x) from each other wherein all holes are located below the axis of rotation of the rotating feed screw.

12. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 11 wherein the distance (x) exceeds the hole-diameter (d).

13. (Currently amended) A distributor device for cellulose pulp having a consistency range of 2 to 12%, the distributor device being used to form a layer of pulp running

RF 11/7/03 128.822PAT

PATENT

from the distributor device in an apparatus treating the  
cellulose pulp, comprising:

a cylindrical distributor housing having a cylinder axis arranged  
horizontally and transverse to the pulp layer;

the distributor housing having an inlet defined therein  
for the cellulose pulp;

a rotating feed screw having an axis of rotation  
parallel to the cylinder axis of the distributor housing being  
designed to feed pulp from the inlet and along an entire length  
of the distributor housing in a direction of its cylinder axis;  
and

the distributor housing having outlets defined therein  
and arranged substantially along a generatrix in a jacket surface  
of the distributor housing, the outlets having holes arranged  
along the generatrix in the jacket surface of the distributor  
housing, the holes having a hole-diameter (d) and being arranged  
at a distance (x) from each other, The distributor device  
~~according to claim 11~~ wherein the hole-diameter (d) is in the  
range of 20 millimeters to 60 millimeters, the hole-diameter (d)  
increases continuously from the inlet of the distributor housing.

14. (Cancelled) ~~The distributor device according to  
claim 13 wherein the hole diameter (d) increases continuously  
from the inlet of the distributor housing.~~

RE 11/7/03 128.822PAT

PATENT

15. (Currently amended) The distributor device according to claim 13 wherein the holes are distributed evenly across the entire width of the pulp web layer formed from the distributor device.

16. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 12 wherein the distance (x) is between 40 millimeters and 90 millimeters and the distance (x) is at least 150% of the hole-diameter (d).

17. (Currently amended) The distributor device according to claim 11 wherein the holes are arranged in a lowest part of the jacket surface of the distributor housing directed substantially straight down from the distributor housing and within an area of rotation in a range of 45 degrees in a first direction and 45 degrees in a second opposite direction  $\pm$  45 degrees.

18. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 11 wherein a feed-screw has a screw thread with crests being sweepable across the holes at a predefined distance (y) from the holes in the jacket surface of the distributor housing, the distance (y) is in a range of 5 millimeter to 20 millimeters.

RF 11/7/03 128.822PAT

PATENT

19. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 18 wherein the feed screw has a core with a diameter increasing continuously from the inlet and an annular gap around the feed screw, into which the pulp is conveyed, decreases continuously from the inlet of the distributor housing.

20. (Original) The distributor device according to Claim 18 wherein the feed-screw has a decreasing thread pitch on a screw blade.

21. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 11 wherein the hole-diameter (d) is in the range of 35 millimeters to 45 millimeters.

22. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 12 wherein the distance (x) is between 40 millimeters and 90 millimeters and the distance (x) is at least 150% of the hole-diameter (d).

23. (Original) The distributor device according to claim 12 wherein the distance (x) is between 70 millimeters and 80 millimeters and the distance (x) is at least 150% of the hole-diameter (d).